

SUMMARY OF ROUND 1 "SUPERFUND ADMINISTRATIVE IMPROVEMENTS" (JUNE 1993)

On June 23, 1993 Robert Sussman, EPA's Deputy Administrator announced a comprehensive package of administrative changes to the Superfund program. These reforms became known as Round 1—"Superfund Administrative Improvements." To highlight progress on Round 1 efforts, the Agency developed the Superfund Administrative Improvements Closeout Report of February 1995. The report describes each initiative in detail, and progress made on each between June 23, 1993, and September 30, 1994.

The Superfund Administrative Improvements Final Report contained 17 initiatives with specific goals and milestones to improve the Superfund program. The report established nine new initiatives that were designed to: 1) increase enforcement fairness and reduce transaction costs; 2) improve cleanup effectiveness and consistency; 3) expand meaningful public involvement; and 4) enhance the state role in the Superfund program. In addition, EPA adopted eight continuing initiatives from the previous 90- and 30-day studies that were designed to improve the overall efficiency, effectiveness, and fairness of the Superfund program.

For each initiative the Agency set aggressive performance targets. EPA exceeded all performance targets, most significantly in construction completions, and *de minimis* settlements. Highlights of the Agency's continuing progress on Round 1 Reforms are shown in the Program Accomplishments box at the top of the Round 2 Reforms Scorecard.

By refocusing its energies and resources through these reforms, EPA made significant strides in addressing Superfund stakeholders' concerns. Many of the initiatives with ongoing actions and performance targets require EPA to focus on site activities earlier in the process. These "up front" investments are expected to reduce costs, increase cleanups, and involve the public more effectively. Although the Superfund Administrative Improvement Task Force charter expired at the end of FY 1994, the Agency continued to set targets and goals for many of the administrative improvement initiatives, such as construction completions and *de minimis* settlements.